



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

June 7, 2005

Mr. Troy Justesen, Director
U. S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Mr. Justesen:

Enclosed with this letter is the required June 7, 2005, Missouri Part C Final Report. We have updated the monitoring chart to include the current status of the System Point of Entry (SPOE) monitoring.

I appreciate the assistance and support provided staff of the Office of Special Education Programs to Missouri as we continue to improve the First Steps system. If you have questions concerning this report, you can contact me or Debby Parsons at 573-751-5739.

Sincerely,

Melodie A. Friedebach, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Special Education

lmb
Enclosures
c: Dr. D. Kent King
Ms. Debby Parsons

Final Report to U.S. Department of Education, OSEP
Prepared by Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
June 7, 2005

First Steps System Update

1. Legislation

Senate Bill 500 was passed by the Missouri Legislature on May 13, 2005, and is awaiting the Governor's signature. The main provisions include:

- Missouri participation in Part C
- State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) roles and responsibilities
- Lead agency responsibilities
- Regional structure for the delivery of First Steps services
- Family cost participation including access to private insurance and sliding fee structure
- Oversight of early intervention providers by the system point of entry (SPOE) through employment or contract

2. Data System

The WEBSPOE child data system is undergoing acceptance testing by the state agency the week of May 23, 2005. The system will be piloted in the Northwest SPOE beginning the week of June 6, 2005. The remaining SPOE areas will be trained and begin using the new system from June 27, 2005, to August 12, 2005.

3. Funding

The First Steps appropriation was \$26,136,184, but funds available (because of a \$391,521 Governor withhold) for FY06 is \$25,744,663.

4. Lead Agency Implementation Plans for FY06

The DSE is working with the Office of Administration (OA) to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the rebid of the Phase II areas. The estimated timelines include releasing the RFP by July 1, 2005, awards during the fall of 2005, and implementation of the new SPOEs by January 1, 2006. In addition to the provisions from the legislation, the following key components from the Phase I rebid will be continued:

- Service coordinators will be employees of Department of Mental Health (DMH) or the SPOEs
- SPOE administrators will oversee the operation of the program
- Regional Interagency Coordinating Councils (RICCs) will continue
- Phase I will not be rebid, however, contracts will be amended as necessary.

Final Progress Report

1. General Supervision

Missouri assures OSEP that DESE is implementing effective monitoring procedures to ensure the identification and correction of non-compliance regarding all Part C requirements and in all agencies carrying out Part C.

The November Interim Report provided an update to OSEP on the development of Stage I, II, and III of the Part C monitoring system. The DSE has eliminated the "stages" and included a complete description of the monitoring system on pages 8–13 of the general

supervision section of the Part C APR that was submitted to OSEP in April 2005. The general supervision manual is completed and available on-line at <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps/pdfs/GenSupManual.pdf>.

- All general supervision components required by Part C of IDEA are in place including on-going service coordinator and provider monitoring, which will be implemented along with the Phase II follow-up visits during June-August 2005.
- The charts attached to this narrative indicates that all SPOEs have an initial monitoring and are receiving a nine (9) month on-site follow-up to review the status of correction of the previously identified area of non-compliance to ensure all areas are corrected within twelve (12) months.
- The First Steps Regional Consultants continue to provide technical assistance and follow-up to the SPOEs on implementation of corrective action plans.

2. Child Find

Missouri assures OSEP that all eligible infants and toddlers are identified, located, and evaluated. Page 28 of the Child Find section of the APR indicated “While child count numbers in Missouri fluctuate from month to month and have increased over the past several years, the percentage served has leveled off to approximately 1.60% to 1.70% of the population in the last eighteen (18) months. While the national percentages have declined, Missouri’s percentage has increased based on estimated population totals.” In addition, we concluded on page 32, “The Division is currently working with the Department of Health and Senior Services’ (DHSS) Birth Defects Registry to attempt to determine an appropriate incidence rate for Missouri. This effort, combined with the following, suggest that Missouri is in compliance with child find requirements:

- Missouri’s child count was consistently growing, but has now reached a plateau.
- Referral source data suggests that the public is aware of the program.
- Eligibility and participation data is relatively consistent across races and SPOEs.
- RICCs have been established in Phase I SPOEs to assist with child find and public awareness and will likely be established in other areas when the rest of the state is rebid.”

The rationale for this conclusion is as follows:

- Missouri First Steps eligibility criteria is one of the most restrictive criteria in the nation.
- No SPOEs have findings of non-compliance in the area of child find.
- NICU referrals have increased 67.1%.
- Data analysis has improved. We have received information from DHSS regarding birth defects. Since their information includes only births and not deaths, we are still working with them to determine exact numbers. In addition, the Division is working with the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED) to determine the percentage of children with a 50% delay.
- Public awareness has increased based on the recent news coverage within the state during the legislative session.

3. 45-day Timeline

Missouri assures OSEP that all eligible infants and toddlers, within 45-days of an initial referral, have an evaluation and assessment completed and an initial IFSP meeting held.

- Missouri uses an 80% compliance rate to determine systemic non-compliance. Previously all SPOEs had identified systemic non-compliance problems regarding 45-day timelines. The most recent data indicates no current finding of non-compliance.
- As a result of the changes in the Phase I SPOE contracts, the following compliance rates apply to children referred between January 15, 2005, and March 15, 2005:
 - St. Louis County SPOE 93.38%
 - Greater St. Louis SPOE 94%
 - NW SPOE 94.87%
- The status of individual child corrective actions will be reviewed during the nine (9) month follow-up to determine if compensatory services have been offered.
- All areas of non-compliance will be corrected within twelve (12) months of the monitoring report issued by the DSE.
- The First Steps Regional Consultants will continue to work with any SPOEs identified during the nine (9) month follow-up reviews to correct any area of non-compliance prior to the end of the twelve (12) month timeframe.
- All Phase II SPOES will be rebid and awards made by fall of 2005. All monitoring findings will be used as a basis for performance and RFP award as it was with the rebid of Phase I.
- It is anticipated that the Phase II rebids will include liquidated damages for failure to correct non-compliance within ninety (90) days and for failure to meet 45-day timelines.

Missouri Part C Monitoring and Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Dates as of 2/22/05

Original Phase I (contracts were re-bid in 2004)

Region	Initial Review	Report Sent	Follow-Up 1	Follow-Up Report Sent	CAP Due	CAP Rec'd	Doc. Due	Doc. Rec'd	Follow-Up 2
Child Day Care Association St Charles (1)	10/11/2002	4/16/2003	5/25/2004	10/29/2004	11/29/2004	11/29/2004	12/14/2004	1/5/2005	July 5-7, 2005
United Cerebral Palsy of Greater St. Louis St Louis (2)	10/10/2002	4/16/2003	11/11/2003	4/5/2004	5/5/2004	7/1/2004 (see note 6)	5/26/2004	NA	NA
Community Services of Northwest Missouri Atchison (4)	11/19/2002	4/16/2003	5/17/2004	10/29/2004	See notes 3,4,5	NA		NA	NA
Young Women's Christian Association St. Joseph (5)	11/11/2002	4/16/2003	1/19/2004	10/29/2004	See notes 3,4,5	NA		NA	NA
Sunshine Center Clay,Platte,Ray (6)	11/11/2002	4/16/2003	5/14/2004	10/29/2004	See notes 3,4,5	NA		NA	NA

Phase I Re-Bid SPOEs (contracts awarded July 2004)

Region	Letter Assigning CAP	CAP Due	CAP Received	SPOE Specific Documentation Due	SPOE Specific Documentation Received	On-site	Report Sent	CAP Rec'd	CAP Approved
Child Day Care Association Greater St. Louis (1)	8/13/2004	9/28/2004	10/24/2004	11/15/2004	11/12/2004	July 5-7, 2005	NA	NA	NA
Special School District of St. Louis County St. Louis Co. (2)	8/13/2004	9/27/2004	9/27/2004	11/13/2004	12/15/2004	February 22-23, 2005	4/12/2005	5/19/2005	5/20/2005
The Daulton Group, Inc Northwest (4)	10/29/2004	12/13/2004	11/18/2004	1/28/2005	1/21/2005	February 28-March 2, 2005	4/15/2005	5/4/2005	5/19/2005

Notes: Phase 1 SPOEs re-bid effective July 1, 2004

Note 1: Region 1 – Area was expanded to include St. Louis City

Note 2: Region 2 – Geographical area was divided with St. Louis City going to Region 1 and St. Louis County awarded to a new contractor

Note 3: Regions 4, 5, 6 – Were combined and awarded to a new contractor

Note 4: Corrective action plans from previous SPOEs were sent to new SPOEs to correct

Note 5: Regions 2, 4 – Phase 1 re-bid SPOEs will have initial on-site monitoring in February/March 2005, to include verification of corrective actions from previous SPOEs

Note 6: Region 1 – St. Louis SPOE's CAP was not acceptable, however the responsibility was transferred to the new SPOEs for Regions 1 and 2

Note 7: Follow-up will include verification of corrective action from previous SPOE

Missouri Part C Monitoring and Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Dates as of 3/14/05
Phase II

Region	Initial Review	Report Sent	CAP Due	CAP Rec'd	Consultant CAP Training	Revised CAP Rec'd	CAP Approved*	Doc Due	Doc Rec'd	Doc Approved	Follow-up Due
SEMO											
Jefferson County (3)	11/13/03	10/13/04	11/15/04	11/23/04	1/31/05	2/7/05	4/5/2005	11/30/04	2/18/05	4/5/2005	Aug. 9-11 2005
Farmington (7)	11/13/03	9/30/04	11/1/04	11/4/04	1/31/05	2/7/05	4/5/2005	11/15/04	2/18/05	4/5/2005	Aug. 9-11 2005
Poplar Bluff (21)	11/13/03	9/30/04	11/1/04	11/4/04	1/31/05	2/7/05	4/5/2005	11/15/04	2/18/05	4/5/2005	Aug.9-11 2005
Bootheel (23)	11/13/03	9/30/04	11/1/04	11/4/04	1/31/05	2/7/05	4/5/2005	11/15/04	2/18/05	4/5/2005	Aug. 9-11 2005
Childcare Connection											
Columbia (11)	6/17/04	9/28/04	10/28/04	11/5/04	2/1/05	3/13/05	5/19/2005	11/11/04	3/1/05	5/19/2005	June 7-9 2005
Jefferson City (16)	6/14/04	10/7/04	11/8/04	11/23/04	1/16/05	3/3/05	*	11/24/04	3/24/05	*	Aug. 18-19 2005
First Steps of Southwest Missouri											
Joplin (12)	5/11/04	10/22/04	11/23/04	11/23/04	3/1/05	3/7/05	4/5/2005	12/8/04	12/9/04	4/5/2005	July 19-21 2005
South Kansas City (14)	5/11/04	10/22/04	11/23/04	11/23/04	3/1/05	3/7/05	4/5/2005	12/8/04	12/9/04	4/5/2005	July 19-21 2005
Bolivar (15)	5/11/04	10/22/04	11/23/04	11/23/04	3/1/05	3/7/05	4/5/2005	12/8/04	12/9/04	4/5/2005	July 19-21 2005
First Steps - A program of Child Care Resource and Referral											
Springfield (13)	5/13/04	10/22/04	11/23/04	11/18/04	2/7/05	3/7/05	4/5/2005	12/8/04	12/27/04	4/5/2005	June 28-30 2005
South Central MO (18)	5/11/04	10/22/04	11/23/04	11/18/04	2/7/05	3/7/05	4/5/2005	12/8/04	12/27/04	4/5/2005	June 28-30 2005
West Plains (22)	5/11/04	10/22/04	11/23/04	11/18/04	2/7/05	3/7/05	4/5/2005	12/8/04	12/27/04	4/5/2005	June 28-30 2005
Evergreen Behavioral Services											
Kirksville (8)	5/21/04	10/21/04	11/22/04	11/19/04	2/3/05	3/3/05	4/5/2005	12/7/04	12/7/04	4/5/2005	July 12-14 2005
Union (19)	11/6/03	10/21/04	11/22/04	11/19/04	2/3/05	3/3/05	4/5/2005	12/7/04	12/7/04	4/5/2005	July 12-14 2005
North Central Mo (24)	5/19/04	10/21/04	11/22/04	11/19/04	2/3/05	3/3/05	4/5/2005	12/7/04	12/7/04	4/5/2005	July 12-14 2005
Hannibal (25)	11/16/03	10/21/04	11/22/04	11/19/04	2/3/05	3/3/05	4/5/2005	12/7/04	12/7/04	4/5/2005	July 12-14 2005
Montgomery City (26)	11/16/03	10/21/04	11/22/04	11/19/04	2/3/05	3/3/05	4/5/2005	12/7/04	12/7/04	4/5/2005	July 12-14 2005
The Children's Place											
Kansas City (9)	5/5/04	10/8/04	11/8/04	2/16/05	2/24/05	2/16/05	4/5/2005	11/22/04	2/16/05	4/5/2005	Aug. 3-5 2005
Children's Therapy Center											
Sedalia (10)	4/27/04	10/13/04	11/13/04	11/11/04	2/14/05	3/9/05	4/5/2005	11/29/04	11/29/04	4/5/2005	June 22-24 2005
First Steps for Families											
Camdenton/Rolla (17)	4/9/04	10/22/04	11/23/04	1/9/05	2/14/05	3/17/05	4/5/2005	12/8/04	1/21/05	4/5/2005	Aug. 1-3 2005
Bringing Families Together											
Cuba (20)	4/5/04	10/22/04	11/22/04	12/1/04	2/25/05	3/24/05	4/5/2005	12/7/04	12/1/04	4/5/2005	June 22-24 2005

* Jefferson City's CAP and documentation have not been approved due to the fact that the CAP and documentation were incomplete. The documentation from the SPOE did not give sufficient evidence that non-compliance identified during the initial monitoring had been corrected, and the CAP did not provide sufficient information to indicate that systemic non-compliance would be corrected in a timely fashion. An intermediate file review was conducted on May 4, 2005. DESE issued specific corrective actions. The revised CAP addressing systemic non-compliance is due June 27, 2005.